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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0533**

HENRY A. WAXMAN  
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

June 11, 2013

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420-0002

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

I am writing to express my concern that a majority of the 396 beds at the Veterans Home of West Los Angeles have gone unfilled since the home was opened in October 2010.


The Veterans Home of West Los Angeles, located on the West LA VA campus, offers different levels of care, including a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE), skilled nursing care, and memory care. The federal government contributed two-thirds of the costs for the construction of the home and the State of California funded the balance. Despite having full funding guarantees from the State of California, most of the home's beds have not been filled.

When the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) and the US Department of Veterans Affairs planned the West Los Angeles Veterans Home project, they sought to replace an existing kitchen on the West LA VA campus with a new facility that would supply the food needs of the West LA VA, Veterans Home of West Los Angeles, Veterans Home of Ventura, and Veterans Home of Lancaster (please see attached document). This large kitchen facility was not built, however, and a small kitchen that does exist in the home is licensed to serve only 156 residents.

I understand that while VA and CDVA personnel have held meetings and discussed approaches to resolving the problem, decisions are not getting made. As long as this problem goes unresolved, most of the beds in the home will continue to sit idle and needy veterans will go unserved. I request that you become personally involved to ensure that everything is being done as quickly as possible to remove the obstacles that are preventing the home from operating at full capacity.

I appreciate your attention to my strong concern and request a response.

Sincerely,

  
HENRY A. WAXMAN  
Member of Congress